

MINUTES  
MANSFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, March 26, 2015  
Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

Members present: S. Ferrigno; K. Dorgan, D. Fecho (6:00 p.m.); M. Hirschorn, J. McGuire; A. Marcellino (ex-officio)  
Staff present: Matt Hart, Town Manager; Linda Painter, Director of Planning and Development; Kevin Filchak, Intern

Ferrigno called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Public Comment: No public comment received.

Approval of Minutes: Hirschorn MOVED, Thompson seconded approval of the minutes of the January 22, 2015 and February 26, 2015 minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

1. **Mansfield Tomorrow Draft Plan of Conservation and Development.** Prioritization of economic development tasks was discussed under the 2015 work plan under new business.

New Business:

1. **2015 Work Plan.** Members reviewed the draft work plan prepared by Painter based on the January discussion and suggestions on specific activities. Hart noted the importance of working with existing resources and noted that the proposed budget included funding for an MPA intern to assist with economic development activities. Potential intern activities include supporting the business visitation program (Goal 6.2, Strategy A, Actions 1 and 2) and developing business and agriculture resource guides (Goal 6.2, Strategy D, Action 4). Suggestions on specific activities for the next year included:
  - Broadening the focus on buying local (Goal 6.2, Strategy D, Action 5) to encourage both residents and businesses to buy local. Examples include encouraging larger employers to do a pledge to buy local and encourage them to write procurement procedures in a manner which would allow local businesses to qualify.
  - Seeking sponsorships for regional Economic Development forums (Goal 6.3, Strategy D, Action 1).
  - Researching how other organizations collaborate with institutions of higher learning to identify opportunities, overlaps and gaps in how we collaborate with UConn (Goal 6.1, Strategy B, Actions 1 and 2) - see Dorgan 2/24/2015 email with resources on community economic development at universities.
2. **Spring 2015 Regional EDC Meeting.** The regional forum had been tentatively scheduled for April 23<sup>rd</sup>; however, both Hart and Painter have conflicts. Hart and Dorgan will reach out to the Deputy Commissioner to identify alternative dates in May. Program will include a Storrs Center tour, the Deputy DECD Commissioner as featured speaker and a community roundtable discussion.
3. **Next meeting/agenda items:** The next meeting should include an update on the business visitation program, including discussion on how to get back to businesses on issues that have been raised. Another item for the next meeting is a discussion on what the Town could potentially do with regard to marketing.

Reports: Hart distributed a list of businesses that had closed or moved since 2011, or opened within that time.

Communications: None received.

Adjournment: Dorgan departed the meeting at approximately 6:50 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Painter, AICP  
Director of Planning and Development